

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Claims 14 and 24 have been amended. Claim 18 has been canceled.

Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

I. Objection to Claim 24

Claim 24 is objected to because of informalities.

Applicants' representatives have amended claim 24 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. Applicants' representatives wish to thank the Examiner for pointing out the informality.

II. Rejection of Claims 14 and 18 Under 35 U.S.C §112

Claims 14 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicants' representatives have amended claim 14 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claim 18 has been canceled. In particular, claim 14 has been amended to recite that the system self-throttles "if the number of dependencies associated with an account are below a second threshold." Support for the limitation can be found in the Specification on page 7 lines 9-29.

III. Rejection of Claims 1-33 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hanagan et al. (US 2004/0133487 A1)(Hanagan) in view of Pather et al. (US 7,177,859 B2)(Pather).

Independent claims 1, 15, 22, 28, 31 and 32 recite a system and method for bulk and error processing of accounts with a set of *dependent* tasks. The invention includes a removal component which removes one or more accounts from the eligible accounts if an error is associated therewith. In bulk mode, each task fetches only the required set of accounts for processing and in error mode, the account is removed from bulk mode and becomes ineligible for fetching in any future bulk-mode task processing. Error-mode processing tests and processes

all tasks sequentially for an errored account until the account state is in par with the accounts being processed by bulk mode.

Hanagan is directed to a customer billing system composed of modular components. Hanagan fails to mention that the customer billing system processes accounts with a set of dependent tasks. Pather fails to make up for the deficiencies of Hanagan with respect to accounts with dependent tasks. Pather is directed to a method of processing subscription queries into data by linking subscription queries to event data to generate a database of notification data. Notably, Pather does not disclose processing subscription queries if there are *any interdependency between subscription queries*.

Therefore, it is readily apparent that Hanagan and Pather, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest applicants' claimed subject matter as recited in independent claims 1, 15, 22, 28, 31 and 32 (and claims 1-14, 16-17, 19-21, 23-27, 29, and 33 which respectively depend there from), and thus fails to make obvious the subject claimed invention. As such, this rejection should be withdrawn.

IV. New Claim 34

New claim 34 is generally directed to a system for facilitating task processing among accounts with a set of dependent tasks. Applicants' representative respectfully submits that none of the cited references teach or suggest the recited limitations of claim 34 and therefore, the claim is allowable.

CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 [MSFTP508US].

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

AMIN, TUROCY & CALVIN, LLP

/Himanshu S. Amin/

Himanshu S. Amin

Reg. No. 40,894

AMIN, TUROCY & CALVIN, LLP
24TH Floor, National City Center
1900 E. 9TH Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
Telephone (216) 696-8730
Facsimile (216) 696-8731